

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace Fig. 4 currently on file in this application with the attached Replacement Fig. 4. Fig. 4 has been amended to correct a typographical wherein "r_o" is amended to read "r_u".

Further, new Fig. 9 has been added to depict the alternative embodiment described on page 3, lines 16-22 of the original specification, and in original claim 10. No new matter has been presented by the addition of Fig. 9.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully solicited.

As regards the objection to the Drawing, a new Fig. 9 is herewith presented which depicts the alternative embodiment described on page 3, lines 16-22 of the original specification, and in original claim 10. Original page 3, beginning at line 13, reads as follows:

A peripheral chain groove 14 is machined in the circumference 5 of the disk 4 for this purpose. Each connecting link 8 has an elongated edge 16 which faces towards the circumference 6.

Alternatively, two or more parallel grooves (not shown) can be machined, depending upon whether one or more saw chains are to be used. Where applicable, the disk 4 is designed with a correspondingly greater thickness. As, when two or more saw chains are used, each groove is designed in a similar way to when a single saw chain is used, for the sake of clarity the disc saw blade 2 shown in this embodiment is of the latter type.

The description of the alternative embodiment describes plural grooves machined in one disk, with the disk provided with a correspondingly greater thickness to accommodate the additional groove(s). That is confirmed by original claim 10 which reads:

10. Disc saw blade according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that, for a disk (4) with several saw chains (12) that run parallel, a corresponding chain groove (14) is formed in the disk for each saw chain.

That is, "a" disk (i.e., one disk) has "several" saw chains, each disposed within its own groove.

Accordingly, it is submitted that new Fig. 9 and claim 10 are supported by the original disclosure. The term "parallel" has been deleted from the description and from claim 10.

Claims 1-2 and 4-11 stand rejected as obvious over Carlton in view of Frederickson. It is argued that Frederickson, by virtue of a disclosure in Fig. 4, depicts an arrangement in which a saw chain is loosely mounted on a disc 14 to provide play in the circumferential direction of the disc and wherein a radius (R_{sb}) to the bottom of the groove of each driving link 10-11 is shorter than a radius (R_{id}) to the projecting part and shorter than a radius (R_u) to a radially outer end of each projection. However, Applicant disagrees for the following reasons.

Frederickson never discusses whether there exists any looseness or play of the saw chain. That is not unexpected since Frederickson's invention is directed to a configuration of the cutting links which enables them to be sharpened by a hone 50 mounted on the chain saw. Fig. 4 is not intended to provide any meaningful disclosure relating to tightness or looseness of the saw chain.

Furthermore, since Frederickson's invention is directed to a chain saw rather than a disc saw blade comprised of a circular saw chain mounted around the circumference of a circular disc (as recited in present claim 1 and as disclosed by Carlton), the view shown in Fig. 4 of Frederickson is incapable of teaching how to mount a circular saw chain. In that regard, attention is directed to the attached annotated blow-up of Fig. 4 of Frederickson showing that the drive link whose tang is designated by numeral 11 and which is exposed by virtue of breaking-away part of the sprocket 14, is not oriented tangent relative to the radius of the sprocket, as is the drive link located to the left of the exposed drive link. That is because

Frederickson's invention is directed to a chain saw, and the exposed drive link is in the process of moving out of contact with the sprocket in Fig. 4. If instead, the saw chain were a circular saw chain, the exposed drive link would be rotating around the sprocket and the tang would be located closer to the bottom of the pocket 13. In fact, the bottom of the tang 11 would be hidden from view behind the sprocket 14 in Fig. 4, and the relationship between the tang bottom and the groove bottom would be unknown. Thus, there is no teaching in Fredrickson of making the radius to the bottom of the pocket (groove) shorter than the radius to the projecting part in a circular saw chain. And, as noted above, there is no discussion whatsoever of looseness or play of a saw chain in Frederickson.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite subject matter of claim 2, namely that the cam surface on each driving link is designed to cause the chain to be displaced radially outwards along a respective radial projection by a cam effect during rotation of the disk to take up the play and to tension the saw chain in a way that the saw chain is held onto the disc as a result of its tensioned shape (See Fig. 3). As explained above, play of the saw chain is not disclosed in either Carlton or Frederickson. In Carlton, radial outward displacement of the saw chain does not result from taking up play, but from stretching the chain, which can lead to chain failure (see Carlton, col. 4, lines 30-36).

For the above reasons, it is submitted that there is no obvious combination of Carlton and Frederickson which would result in the invention defined by claim 1.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, it is submitted that the present claims distinguish patentably over Carlton and Frederickson, and the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

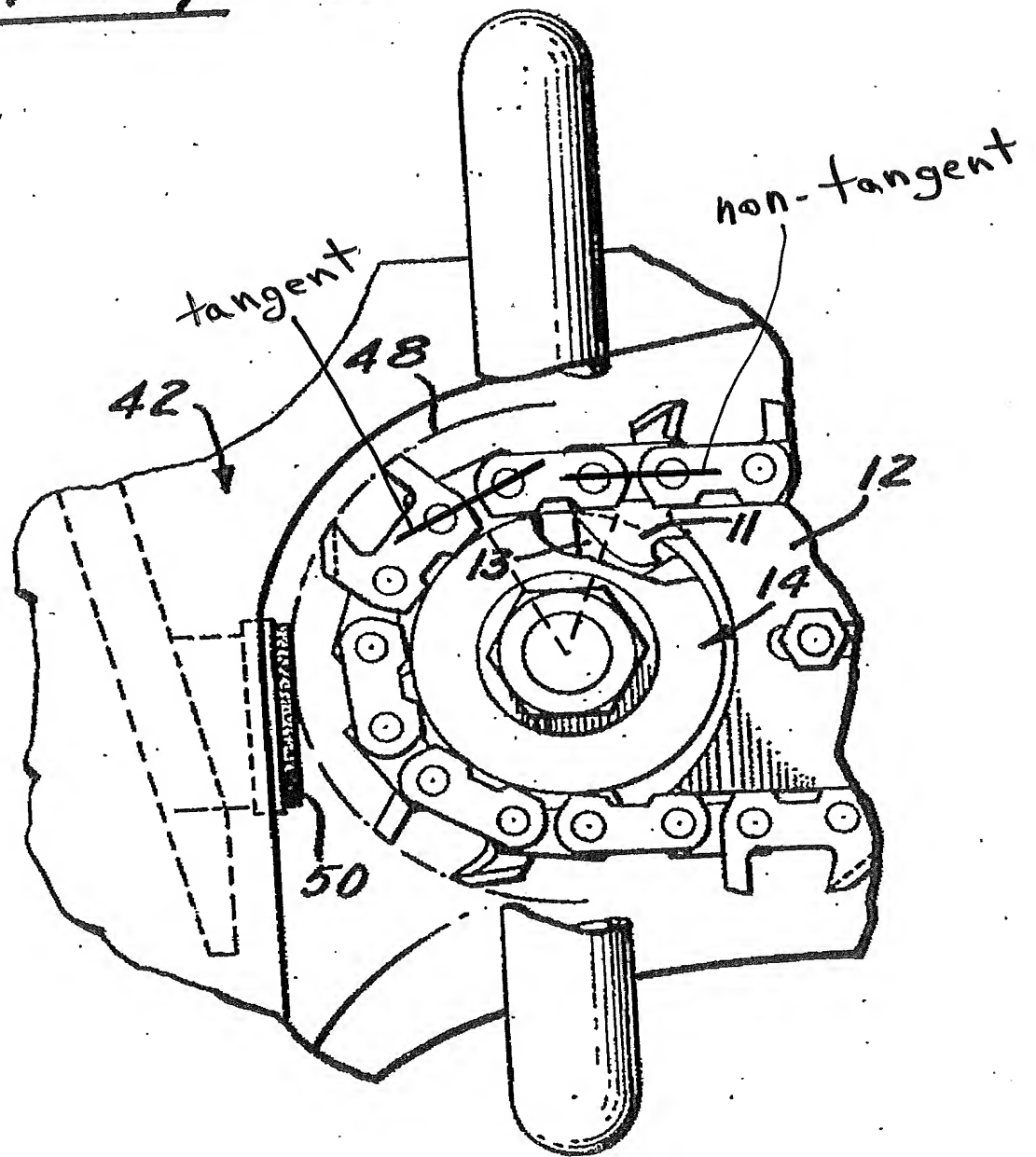
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Fig. 4.



ATTACHMENT TO AMENDMENT